

Justice Systems Appropriations Committee

Report on Junkman/Knoebel Center Transitional Housing Program

The Junkman-Knoebel Center is a 25-bed transitional housing unit developed by Pathways Behavioral Services. Located in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, the Junkman-Knoebel Center is the only transitional living program specifically designed for persons in recovery from alcohol and/or drug addiction residing in northeast Iowa. The Junkman-Knoebel Center provides supervised transitional housing for offenders with alcohol and/or drug addictions utilizing collaborative efforts of the medical, social service and law enforcement community. The Center also offers a structured environment where residents of the program develop living skills needed to independently maintain their sobriety. The program requires that residents: commit to sobriety (as monitored by random urinalysis), demonstrate employment, and meet financial obligations (i.e., court costs, fines, restitution, child support and transitional living fees).

As of this reporting period, 32 parolees have been placed at the Junkman/Knoebel Center. Of these, 28 were granted parole from prison, and the remaining 4 were parolees being released from prison after participating in the short-term Violator Program.

Recidivism: So far less than a quarter of the offenders have returned to prison (7 out of 32).

Prison bed savings: On average, it takes 22 days following the granting of parole, for the inmate to exit prison to parole placement instate. The 28 offenders paroled to reside at the Junkman-Knoebel Center were processed for release in 19 days on average. In all, Pathways' Transitional Housing Program has saved the Department of Corrections 78 prison bed days to date.

The information just presented is everything requested by the Justice Systems Appropriations Committee. Pathways respectfully submits the following information to help to clarify the important role Junkman Knoebel Center plays:

- In the past fiscal year not only 32 parolees reside at Junkman Knoebel Center but 30 probationers did so as well. This translates in to over two thirds of Junkman Knoebel Center residents were corrections referrals.
- The correctional facility in Waterloo is always full with a waiting list. The reason people come to Junkman Knoebel Center is that they have no place to live which will be supportive of their recovery. If Junkman Knoebel Center were not available for them there is a good probability that they would end on the waiting list of the facility thus extending their prison time.
- The director of the first judicial district, Karen Herkelman, has indicated that Junkman Knoebel Center is viewed as an important extension of correctional resources.
- The previous year has demonstrated that the collaborative work between the staff at Junkman Knoebel Center, the first judicial district and the state institutions can reduce the time between parole approval and release to the Junkman Knoebel Center to zero. By collaboratively putting focus on reducing the time between parole approval date and release date, it seems reasonable, with time, we can do so.

Finally, I would like to invite any of you who have an interest in looking at our program to do so at any time. I hope you will feel free to contact me at (319) 235-6571 if you have any further comments or questions.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hoffman

Executive Director

Pathways Behavioral Service